



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Finance Committee Minutes 02-14-2001

7:30 PM O'Neill Room Community Safety Building
 2/14/01

ATTENDEES:

Phelps Feinleib Kocur* O'Neill Mahoney*
 DeCoursey* Villandry Simmons* Mazmanian*
 Tosti* Foskett* Deyst* Ronan*
 Scoppettuolo* Franclemont* Olsen*
 DuBois* Howard* Fanning Tosi* Kneeland*
 * Indicates present

VISITORS: Treasurer John Bilafer, Don Marquis

MINUTES of 2/7/01 approved as printed.

BUDGET: Chair provided budget summary w/ Police grant included & redundant salary increases deleted. Balance now -\$2.5m. Manager has asked departments to level fund. Budget sheets do not include FY01 salary increases in FY01 line items but do include these increases in FY02 requests. Assessor budget requests provided. Pay plan & M Schedule review spreadsheets provided by Personnel Director. A copy of the Town Counsel's letter to the Selectmen on Symmes provided. A letter from Planning Dept on Reed's Brook status provided.

The following articles were submitted by & explained by the Treasurer.

ART 40 Delayed Retirement Option Plan-Would require Selectmen to request state legislation that would permit public employees to work past normal retirement age. Would be decided mutually by administration & employee. A response to people living longer. Various versions are being used in the south west.
 TABLED More info needed.

ART 54 Acceptance of Legislation/Appropriation Non-Contributory Popup Act Would allow same benefit to those receiving non-contributory as already available to others. If spouse dies first, pension increases to what it would have been if retiree had not had a spouse. Thought to be only one person possibly affected whose wife is 5 yrs younger. \$5682.
 VOTED Favorable action, unanimous.

ART 67 Appropriation/Pension Adjustment For Retirees This would reauthorize COLAs as in recent years. This replaces a State program. The purpose is have the retiree's income track the position from which the person retired. The new pay plan will be used. Foskett reported that a COLA overpayment by the State in past years said to total \$75k has gone away according to the comptroller.
 VOTED Favorable action, unanimous.

ART 74 Appropriation/Millennial Memorial Trust: \$1000 to be invested for use in 2100 to celebrate the end of the century.

TABLED DeCoursey to find out if startup funds appropriated to the Millennial Committee could be used.

ART 75 Appropriation/ Hovhaness Memorial: Biography handout provided. \$1000 for a plaque & stone in a public place.

TABLED DuBois to see if could be incorporated in (and paid for by) Town Hall Garden project.

ART 91 Appropriation/Retiree Health Care Trust Fund: Marquis requested \$100k of the air pollution control device offset from the State or \$100k from the Stabilization Fund be appropriated in order to receive substantial matching funds from the State tobacco trust. He sees no end to health care cost increases.

TABLED Tosti to find out how likely the release of tobacco funds for this purpose is.

WARRANT: Copies of Warrant provided. Warrant reviewed. Committee agreed on which articles to be considered. Refer to attached table.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be 2/21. Meetings are also scheduled for Feb 26, 28; Mar 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28; and April 9, 11 -- all in the Bob O'Neill Room at the Community Safety Bldg. Chair requested members hold 4/10, 11, 12 open also.

Partial agendas:

2/26 Human Rights Commission

3/7 Permanent Town Building Commission-status & school projected capacity & enrollment

3/19 Land Acquisition

3/21 School Committee

Foskett collecting \$15/member for AEEF Spelling Bee. Team: DuBois, Kocur, Phelps

Source: Peter B Howard, Secretary 2/17/01